

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

Preliminarily, claims 78 and 80 have been amended to correct the reference to "D-638" to --D-638M--.

The Examiner indicated that claims 73-96 and 98 remain in allowance and has requested Applicants to specifically identify the portions of each application in the chain of continuity which provide support for each element of each of the copied claims to antedate U.S. Patent 6,014,488.

In response, Applicants note that the chain of continuity for the present application is as follows (excerpted from Filing Receipt):

This application is a continuation of Serial No. 09/035,771, filed March 6, 1998, now U.S. Patent 6,298,189, which is a continuation-in-part of abandoned Serial No. 08/877,585, filed June 17, 1997, which is further a continuation-in-part of abandoned Serial No. 08/840,893, filed April 17, 1997, and which further is a continuation-in-part of abandoned Serial No. 08/745,790, filed November 8, 1996.

Accordingly, the Applicants have attached hereto Appendices I-IV identifying exemplary portions within the respective applications, in the chain of continuity, where support for each element of the claims may be found. It should be recognized that the identified exemplary portions are neither exhaustive nor presented as the best example where support (or understanding) for a particular element may be found (or gained). Attached please find the following Appendices:

Appendix I – U.S. Application 09/757,828 (Present Application) and U.S. Application 09/035,771, filed March 6, 1998¹;

Appendix II – U.S. Application 08/877,585, filed June 17, 1997;

Appendix III – U.S. Application 08/840,893, filed April 17, 1997; and

Appendix IV – U.S. Application 08/745,790, filed November 8, 1996.

¹ Please note as the present application is a straight continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/035,771, filed March 6, 1998, the specifications are identical and thus support may be found within the corresponding portions.

Applicants submit that each Appendix satisfies the Examiner's request. Accordingly, Applicants urge that an interference be declared with U.S. Patent 6,014,488, and the claims of the present application be granted the benefit of the November 8, 1996 filing date.

If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Appendix – Version to Show Changes Made
Appendices I-IV

APPENDIX: VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

78. (Amended) The coated optical fiber of claim 73, wherein the primary coating is made of a material which is removable from a glass substrate by an adhesion test force of less than 45 g/in, as measured by a peel back test at 50% relative humidity, has an elongation to break of at least about 88% as measured by ASTM D-638M, and has a tensile strength of at least about 72.5 psi as measured by ASTM D-638M.

80. (Amended) The coated optical fiber of claim 73, wherein the primary coating is made of a material which is removable from a glass substrate by an adhesion test force of at least 5 g/in, as measured by a peel back test at 95% relative humidity, has an elongation to break of at least about 88% as measured by ASTM D-638M, and has a tensile strength of at least about 72.5 psi as measured by ASTM D-638M.

End of Appendix